

REPORT ON ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS
Phila., Penn., Oct 7-9, 1959

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In general all the speakers seemed compelled to bring the subject of records management into their talks, even though the subjects all were pertaining to archives. A short, thumb-nail summary of the various sessions follows:

7 October 1959

10:00 a.m. - "Archives of the Professions - Present State and Future Responsibilities"

Here the talks centered on the present condition of the records and the need for better collections and cataloguing of these in the future.

12:15 p.m. - Luncheon

"The Restoration of Old Philadelphia" by The Honorable Richardson Dilworth, Mayor of Philadelphia

The mayor welcomed us to Philadelphia and gave a very interesting talk on the problems they had had with records management and paperwork control. He also told of the work they were doing in restoring the old section of the city and of the problems they were having in trying to interject enough new to make it pay.

2:30 p.m. - Society of American Archivists Workshop
"Archives Buildings - Current Trends and Developments"

Modern archives buildings are being put up by more and more states. Also, several state record centers are coming into being. Picture slides were shown, including some of underground record centers. One of the best that is both an archives and record center is in our newest state, Hiawia. Mr. Everett O. Alldredge read a paper on record center construction that was most interesting. He gave a statistical figure of one reference per three cubic feet of records in a record center that was new to me.

7:00 p.m. - Annual Dinner
"Public Records: Who Knows What They Are"

After listening to a speech of more than an hour's duration, I still don't know what a public record is.

8 October 1959

- 10:00 a.m. - Society of American Archivists
"Archives Custodians and Historical Editors: Common Problems and Mutual Cooperation"

This was one discussion that did not have anything to say about records management. The talk about common problems was very interesting, however.

- 12:15 p.m. - Luncheon
"Impressions of an Itinerant Archivist in Europe" by Ernst M. Posner, American University

As usual Dr. Ernst M. Posner gave a very interesting and entertaining talk on his recent visit to the Italian and Spanish archives.

9 October 1959

- 10:00 a.m. - Society of American Archivists Workshop
"The University Archives and the Role of the University Archivist"

Here the discussion was on where the archives should be placed organizationally in the university and how much he should go into records management to insure that good, adequate records would be available to go into the archives. Miss Helen Chatfield read a very good paper on this.

- 10:00 a.m. - American Association for State and Local History
"Conflict of Jurisdiction Over Records and Manuscripts"

During this time I dashed back and forth between the two, since I wanted to get in on both. Mr. Christopher C. Crittenden of North Carolina gave a very good talk on the records management program of his state. Also Mr. Robert Quarles, Tenn. State Archives, delivered a short but descriptive talk on their program from the floor.

- 2:30 p.m. - Society of American Archivists
"Management of Municipal Archives - The Care and Preservation of Local Records"

According to Mr. James Katsaros, the City of New York has the foremost records program of any city in the United States. He invited all to stop in and take a tour of the entire setup.

According to Mr. C. Frank Poole, the City of Baltimore does not have the best, but he is still working on it.

In addition to the scheduled discussions and workshops, I met and discussed records programs with many people from all over - local, state, and federal government as well as private industry. These talks proved to be very informative and I received an invitation to visit their installations.



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